

REMARKS

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully transverse this rejection.

As described in the specification, the stretching may be accomplished in one or more directions and can be conducted in either the machine direction or the transverse direction of the film material. Moreover, Applicant notes that claim 8, which is similar to claim 7 was not rejected. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are definite and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-10, 14, and 16-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 5,782,787 to Webster ("Webster"). Claims 1-22, 24-28 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 5,112,903 to Sakakibara et al. ("Sakakibara"). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

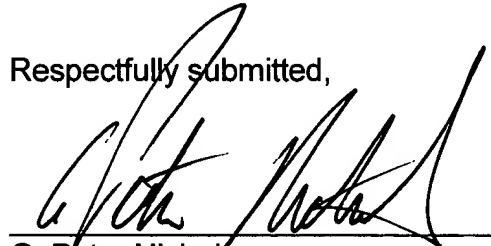
Applicants' claimed methods result in a material that is capable of being deformed when exposed to external forces, is capable of maintaining a degree of deformation once the external forces are removed, and is capable of exhibiting a percent recovery when exposed to a humid environment. Webster does not teach or suggest this feature. Rather, Webster teaches wound dressings that expand when exposed to a humid environment. Accordingly, Applicant submits the claims are allowable over the cited reference.

Applicants' claimed methods comprise a mixture of an elastomeric polymer and a non-elastomeric polymer. Moreover, as previously set forth, this claimed mixture of polymers results in a material that is capable of being deformed when exposed to

external forces, is capable of maintaining a degree of deformation once the external forces are removed, and is capable of exhibiting a percent recovery when exposed to a humid environment. Alternatively, Sakakibara teaches moisture shrinkable resins. As such, Sakakibara fails teach or suggest the claimed percent recovery and further, it fails to teach or suggest the claimed mixture of polymers. Therefore, Applicant submits the claims are allowable over the cited reference.

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Nichols', is written over a horizontal line.

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